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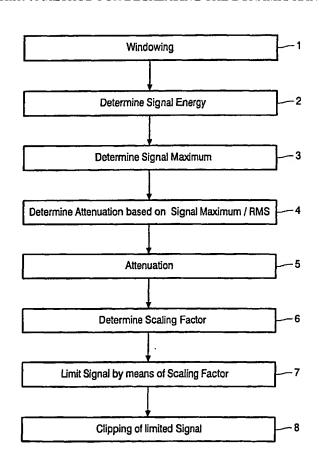
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[Continued on next page]

Title: A METHOD FOR DECREASING THE DYNAMIC RANGE OF A SIGNAL AND ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method of decreasing the dynamic range of a signal comprising the steps of:- determining a property of the signal, determining a limitation parameter based on the property of the signal, - limiting the signal by means of the limitation parameter, - clipping the limited signal.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H03G7/00 H04S H04S1/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 HO4R HO4S HO3G Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included. In the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 6 037 993 A (EASLEY MATTHEW FRANK) 1,8,9 14 March 2000 (2000-03-14) column 1, line 22 - column 4, line 19 X US 5 710 820 A (MARTIN RAIMUND ET AL) 1,8~10 20 January 1998 (1998-01-20) column 2, line 43 - column 3, line 67; figures Α GB 2 179 810 A (BRITISH BROADCASTING CORP) 1-10 11 March 1987 (1987-03-11) the whole document Α US 5 091 957 A (ANDERSON MARK R ET AL) 1-10 25 February 1992 (1992-02-25) column 4, line 8 - column 6, line 59; figures 1,2,9 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the International search report 9 March 2004 15/03/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Blaas, D-L Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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